

# What's New in the MPDC

JUNE 4, 2001

## AS SUMMER APPROACHES, MPDC STEPS UP VISIBILITY; OPEN-AIR MINI-STATIONS TO HIT THE STREETS

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As the summer months begin, the MPDC is once again making police visibility a priority in our communities. Visibility initiatives this summer include bicycle and foot patrols, continuation of the Mobile Force, and "street roll calls" in which districts conduct daily roll call in an outdoor location in the community, as opposed to the district station. Again this year, each of the seven police districts also is equipped with Open-Air MiniStations. These are outdoor table-and-chair sets that are placed in high-activity, high-visibility areas and staffed by uniformed police officers. The officers can take reports and provide information to residents from the Mini-Stations. Learn more about the Open-Air MiniStations, and recommend a location for a MiniStation in your community at:

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org)

*Summer is also a great time to join a citizen patrol or Neighborhood Watch group in your community – or to start a group if one doesn't exist. For information on existing groups or advice on how to form a citizen patrol or Neighborhood Watch, contact the MPDC Community Outreach Section at 202-727-0783.*

## MAY HOMICIDE TOTAL THE LOWEST IN YEARS

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With a preliminary total of eight homicides reported for the month, May 2001 goes down in the books as the least violent month in DC in several years. Homicide statistics for the last five years show no previous month in which the homicide count was under 10. The May 2001 total of eight murders compares with 17 in May 2000 and an average of 18 for the month of May between 1997 and 2000. Year to date through May, homicides in the District are down 37% this year, from 108 at this time 2000 to 69 in 2001. While homicides are down, the MPDC continues to work at improving our homicide clearance rate, with the assistance of the public. The Department currently offers a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any open homicide case in the District. For information on recent homicides, check out the News Release page on our Web site:

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on News)

*In addition to the \$10,000 reward in homicide cases, the DC CrimeSolvers program offers \$1,000 rewards for information leading to an arrest and indictment in serious cases. To learn more about the CrimeSolvers hotline (1-800-673-2777) and to view some of DC's Most Wanted, go to:*

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org)  
(Click on Crime Solvers)

## HURRICANE SEASON MEANS THE POTENTIAL FOR FLOODING: BE PREPARED

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June marks the official beginning of hurricane season along the Atlantic Coast. And, as residents who lived through Andrew and, more recently, Floyd know all too well, it also means increased chance of flooding and related safety concerns in the DC. The DC Emergency Management Agency offers a number of tips for protecting your home and businesses from flooding – before, during and after an emergency. For a list of valuable tips, go to

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on Safety Tips)

## DC RECEIVES HIGH MARKS IN NEW NATIONAL STUDY ON TRAFFIC SAFETY

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Next to California, DC received the highest marks in a new national study that rates the states on a variety of traffic safety measures. In the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) rankings, DC received a "Good" (the highest rating) in five of the six categories analyzed: young driver licensing, seat belt use, child restraint use, motorcycle helmet use, and red-light cameras. The District received a grade of "Acceptable" (second highest rating) in the area of drunken driving. Only California received ratings of "Good" in all six categories. Review the IIHS's complete state-by-state ratings at:

[www.iihs.org/safety\\_facts/state\\_laws/measure\\_up.htm](http://www.iihs.org/safety_facts/state_laws/measure_up.htm)

*In response to a report from Texas Congressman Dick Armey claiming that jurisdictions are shortening the length of yellow traffic signals in order to catch more violators with red-light cameras, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) issued a statement applauding the Congressman for calling attention to the issue, but refuting his conclusions. In DC, yellow lights are generally longer than the industry standard and the traffic signals are never altered at intersections where photo enforcement cameras are installed. Read the ITE statement at*

*[www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)*

## BICYCLE HELMETS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: IT'S THE LAW IN DC!

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Summer means more children getting out and riding their bicycles on DC streets and bike trails. According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, motor vehicle collisions account for nearly 90 percent of all bicycle-related deaths in the country. To help protect our young people, the DC Council enacted a law last year requiring bicyclists under the age of 16 to wear a helmet in DC (although helmets are a good idea for cyclists of all ages). Bicyclists are also reminded to obey all traffic laws in the District, and motorists are encouraged to drive safely – and slowly – when there are bicyclists or pedestrians in sight. Get more information on DC Bicycle Helmet Law and other bike safety resources at:

[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on Safety Tips)

## MPDC ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

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Chief Ramsey announced this week that 30 police officers will be promoted to the rank of sergeant effective July 1. A pre-service training course will begin on June 18, with a promotional ceremony currently planned for June 29. The promotions are another step forward in the MPDC's efforts to put more resources in the community, strengthen community policing, and establish greater leadership and responsibility throughout the organization. In addition to the new sergeants, the MPDC will officially swear in more than two dozen new criminal investigators during ceremonies scheduled for Monday, June 4. The new investigators are the first to be chosen under a new, more rigorous selection and training process. Most will be assigned to district detectives offices. For information about the graduation ceremony:

[www.mpdc.org](http://www.mpdc.org) (Click on News)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpdc@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpdc@excite.com).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**WWW.MPDC.ORG**